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City of Salisbury and Salisbury Fire Department Issue Update Regarding 1910 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Fire

Salisbury, NC_March 7, 2008 – The City of Salisbury and Salisbury Fire Department Chief Bob Parnell announce today that the Salisbury Fire Department (SFD) in response to a reported structure fire at 1910 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. (formerly S. Boundary Street) has experienced a tragic loss of life. The call which came into 9-1-1 at approximately 7 a.m. today offered a report of a working structure fire at the Salisbury Lumber Company, also referred to as the Salisbury Millwork.

Sadly, Chief Parnell regrets to inform that two of Salisbury's bravest firefighters lost their lives at the scene of this major morning incident, earlier today. Salisbury firefighters issued a mayday call for help from the scene which resulted in a Rapid Intervention Team (R.I.T.) response. Third and fourth SFD members were rescued with one transported to Rowan Regional Medical Center and later transported to a regional trauma and burn center. A fourth firefighter, Bryan Roberts, was part of the initial Quint 4 response company. Roberts was reported in good condition.

Those tragically lost today were:

- Firefighter I, Victor A. Isler, age 40. Isler was a past FDNY member/paramedic. Isler had been in the company of the SFD for less than one year.
- A Part-time Salisbury Firefighter I, Justin Edward Monroe, age 19, who also served as a Spencer Firefighter and as a Lieutenant with the Millers Ferry Volunteer Fire Department. Monroe was currently pursuing a degree in Fire Science Technology at Central Piedmont Community College.

Additional firefighters who were injured on the scene, were transported to Rowan Regional Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries. They have been identified as:

Captain Rick A. Barkley, a 20-year veteran with the Salisbury Fire Department, is reported as "awake" and in good condition after experiencing first and second degree burns to his back and extremities. His release is anticipated within the next 24 hours.

Three Locke Volunteer Firefighters, serving as R.I.T. members, were transported to Rowan Regional Medical Center with non-life threatening injuries. Those firefighters have currently been released from local hospital care and are identified as:

- Bradley McKnight
- James Hall

- Rusty Alexander

Chief Bob Parnell speaking on behalf of the Salisbury Fire Department shares, "We wish to assure the community that everything is being done at this early point in the tragedy to determine what caused the fire initially and to make every attempt to prevent future incidents like this, from occurring." Continuing, Parnell states, "I have called in resources from local, regional, state and federal agencies to assist. There are no borders to receiving help and support and we are grateful for that which our community has seen. Due to the magnitude of this event, the SFD has requested and received offers of assistance to protect our community as we go forward. The finest level of service continues to be provided."

Salisbury Mayor Susan W. Kluttz, speaking on behalf of the Salisbury City Council offers, "This is a sad and tragic day and our entire community mourns the loss of two outstanding individuals who gave their lives in service to our City. We ask for your continued thoughts and prayers for our firefighter family. With heart-felt acknowledgement, Mayor Kluttz shares, "We are so proud of the brave men and women of the Salisbury Fire Department and their dedicated families and are extremely grateful to the many other fire agencies who so quickly responded to our needs."

The City of Salisbury and the Salisbury Fire Department family covet your prayers and respect for our firefighters, their families and those affected by this tragic incident. We honor Salisbury's bravest and pay tribute to these fine professionals that answered the call of duty on this fateful day.

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